

## **THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN**

A Publication of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina  
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*"We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us." [Disciples Identity Statement]*

Have you thought about how to realize the global witness of your congregation? We are connected with many communities around the world through the mutual witness of Global Ministries and Week of Compassion!



Peter Makari, the Global Ministries Area Executive for the Middle East and Europe writes:  
*"For I am sure that nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:38, 39"*

*The Palestinian Christian community, with roots dating back to earliest Christianity, now numbers less than two percent of the population in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. But the community prominently offers a non-violent witness for justice and peace. Last December in Bethlehem, Palestinian Christians launched "A Moment of Truth." They called it a "Kairos" document, the word in early Greek meaning "opportunity" or critical moment in time, and meant to allude to the crucial South African Kairos document which in 1985 prompted debate about Apartheid worldwide. The Kairos document states that '... Love is seeing the face of God in every human being. Every person is my brother or my sister. However, seeing the face of God in everyone does not mean accepting evil or aggression on their part. Rather, this love seeks to correct the evil and stop the aggression.'*

*The believer in nonviolence has deep faith in the future. Palestinian Christians write, "Our hope remains strong" based on the expectation in faith of a better future. "In the absence of hope, we cry out our cry of hope... We believe in God, good and just [and that God's goodness] will finally triumph.... We will see here 'a new land' and 'a new human being', capable of rising up in the spirit to love each one of his or her brothers and sisters."*

*We pray, for hope, patience, and steadfastness and a time for repentance. Though their numbers are few, their message is great and important, in a land in urgent need of love."*

Get connected in practical mission trips by contacting our General Ministry partner and Global Ministries' representative, Minister Julia Brown Karimu, Phone: 317-713-2566,  
[jkarimu@dom.disciples.org](mailto:jkarimu@dom.disciples.org)

I serve on the Week of Compassion Advisory Team. Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development ministry fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) responding around the world around the year on behalf of congregations and individuals of the church. I have listened to stories of how WOC engages with partners in its mission.

Minister Amy Gopp, the Director of WOC writes:



*When we help to educate a girl, we help her whole family. To improve the life of one woman is to change the life of an entire community. This has been proven time and time again. We already know that successful sustainable development*



*depends on women. Economic and social development around the world, including in North America, depends directly on how we support and empower women.*

*Yet most women in the world still live on less than \$1 a day. Girls are often expected to do manual labor and stay home to help take care of their families and are not given the chance to go to school. Women are not given the same opportunities to be educated and to be in charge of their own lives. We can change this.*

*We can make a difference! Together, as Disciples women, we can come together to help change the status and lives of girls and women. We can contribute to their education, training, and empowerment. We can accompany them in a bold way!*

*Week of Compassion has established the Women's Empowerment Fund to do just that. This fund will educate, train, and empower women all over the world and here in North America.*

*The Women's Empowerment Fund will honor our sisters in need. It will serve as a powerful vehicle for us as Disciples women to channel our joint resources specifically to improve the lives of women.*

*Individually, you may feel powerless. But coming together and rallying around our sisters, leveraging our resources, starting giving clubs, and committing to improving women's lives means that every single one of us can have an impact.*

*The Women's Empowerment Fund will benefit our partners through Global Ministries, including our efforts to support women in the Congo and the Middle East. It will also benefit our ecumenical partners like Church World Service and Foods Resource Bank, to support girls and women's programs in the Republic of Georgia, Serbia, and India. Through all of our Disciples and ecumenical partners worldwide, Week of Compassion's Women's Empowerment Fund will change the lives of women.*

Thank you for your courageous compassion and for joining our efforts to empower women. For more info see the website: [weekofcompassion.org](http://weekofcompassion.org).

Finally, I look forward our gathering for the Regional Conference! Pray for God's special grace and favor as we give witness to the theme, "Teaching Disciples for Souls to Win!" Read further and also check the website [[scdisciples.org](http://scdisciples.org)] for more details.

In God's love,



Pastor Sotello V. Long  
Regional Minister

# Profiles In Ministry



Minister Johnny Henry Brown is a native of Jed burg, South Carolina, a leader, a self motivator and most of all he loves the Lord. His favorite scripture of inspiration is Galatians 5:25 – “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” He has a great love for people, especially the Family of Three Mile Creek Christian Church. He always encourages them to strive to be all that God would have them to be.

He was ordained in 1999. He served as Associate Minister at Zion Pilgrim Christian Church until 2002. He could always be found serving in some capacity in the Lord's service whenever the church doors were open at the Zion Pilgrim Christian Church.

He has been a certified welder and commercial truck driver. He retired from Arkansas Best Freight (ABF) after twenty-eight years of service in 2004. He has a love of motorcycles and boots!!!!

He presently serves as Senior Pastor of Three Mile Creek Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Ehrhardt, South Carolina and is in his eighth year of service. His wife, Minister Rosemary Simmons-Brown serves as Co-Pastor



Growing up in a home with two parents who were strong lay leaders, church was obviously a big part of my life. Of course every child thinks what they experience is the way all other people's lives are. I assumed all fathers were treasure and/or elder. I assumed all mothers taught Sunday school and participated in CWF. And I certainly realized if they were going to church, I would be there with them. They loved God, I loved them, and I wanted to be like them. I made my profession of faith at age 11.

I had a wonderful youth group experience all through my school aged years. Watching those who ministered to youth so effectively made me want to do the same. I felt this was what God wanted me to do. Thus I decided to go to college to learn how. At Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College), I had many opportunities to do youth ministry, as well as other kinds of ministry. I realized that this work was rewarding not because of the age of the people involved, but because it enabled me to serve my Lord. Moreover, it gave me the chance to help others meet and serve God as well.

I attended seminary at Brite Divinity School at TCU in Fort Worth, TX. While in seminary I also worked at First Christian Church, Carrollton, TX. Learning took place in both locations. Everything was so different in Texas, vibrant and growing. When my three years of school concluded, the Regional Minister there said, “I don't know what you learned at Brite, but you learned many year's worth at Carrollton.” I had learned that God needs minister who serve for the long haul, who realize today's failure simply lays the foundation for tomorrow's victory.

I am so grateful that the Lord has seen fit to continue using me. From the beginning of my college youth ministry days (fall, 1975) until now, there has been a task from God that was just for me. It has taken me from NC to TX to FL to NC; and now to SC. Where God leads, I will follow, always remembering Jesus' commission. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Mt. 28:18b-20)

## **The 7<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Regional Conference of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)!**

First Christian Church, Charleston will host the 7<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Regional Conference of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) September 30 – October 3, 2010. It is a significant event

**“Teaching Disciples for Souls to Win!”** based on Matthew 28:18-20!

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." (The Message Translation)

*The Conference begins Thursday evening with worship coordinated by the Commission on Ministry.*

*Dynamic speakers for the Conference include:*

### **Thursday Evening Worship**

*Minister Timothy James*

Associate General Minister and President and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

### **Friday Morning Worship**

The Seven Active Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12

Featuring Seven Gifted Pastors

*Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina*

### **Friday Dinner**

Minister Sekinah Hamlin Sullivan

Minister of Anti-racism and Reconciliation for the Southeast Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

### **Friday Evening Worship**

Minister Ron Degges

President of the Disciples Home Missions of the Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

### **Saturday Prayer Breakfast**

*Sister Carol Reed*

*First Christian Church, Charleston*

### **Saturday Morning Worship – Note: This is Blue Jean Casual Dress Day!**

**Seven Churches of Asia (Revelation 2; 3)**

Featuring Seven Gifted Pastors

*Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina*

*Another highlight of the conference on Saturday afternoon & thereafter will be “Fun in the ‘SON’ and Cookout in the Park!” We will have a youth review, outdoor games including softball, basketball, tennis, horse shoes, etc. so be sure to dress blue jean casual on Saturday!*

*Sunday Morning will feature several guest speakers preaching in local congregations on the theme...*

**“Teaching Disciples for Souls to Win!”**

**For more details call 843.852.4537// Or go to the website: [scdisciples.org](http://scdisciples.org)**

## News from our Regions

### Commission on Ministry:

Opens the Regional Conference @ 7:00 PM Thursday, September 30th 2010, with an Evening of Elegance Banquet Celebrating our Regional Conference 7th Year of Ministry in The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina Tickets for this Event is \$ 15.00. to attend this event you will need to purchase a Ticket. This special occasion is being sponsored by The Commission on Ministry and The Minister's Wives and Husband Fellowship Ministry.

### Ministers from SC Attending OGMP Conference:

Bishop and Mrs. Melvin Brown, Rev and Mrs. Edward Cushingberry and Rev. and Mrs. Ken McDonald will be attending the General Minister and President's Pastors Conference September 21-23-2010 in San Diego, California

**FCC Charleston:**Has Called Dr.John E.Hughes as Transitional Pastor effective september1,2010 Dr.Hughes and his wife Dr.Carole G.Hughes are natives of South Carolina who now resides in Mt. Pleasant .He is a Graduate of Furman University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and has served churches in South Carolina, Kentucky ,Indiana, and Missouri.

**New Grove Hall CC:**Celebrates Homecoming Beginning Wednesday night September 22 through Friday night Sept.24.Service begins nightly at 7:30pm. and will conclude Sunday Sept. 26 @4:00pm.Theme: Unite in the Body of Christ. Come celebrate with us Reverend Charles Wright, Pastor

### Disciples Women Ministry:

#### MISSIONS



Disciples Women Fall Retreat  
Camp Christian  
October 15th & 16th 2010  
Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Please remember to bring:

- Blessing Boxes
- Blanket Fund
- Canned goods for New Beginning
- Hygiene Kit

Registration & fee must be received by  
Monday, October 4th, 2010

Please send registration form and registration fee to:

Martha Duggins @ P.O.Box 326 Ridgeville SC 29472

**St.Phillip CC:**Celebrates their 114th Church Anniversary on Friday, September 17, 2010 at 7:30 pm and climaxing on Sunday, September 19, 2010 at 4pm. You are invited to come join the celebration.

### Districts Fellowship Events:

District Convention#1 Oct 29-30 @ Ashton Branch CC,Ashton

District Convention#2 Oct. 28-30@ TBA

District Assembly #1 , Oct 22,7:30 PM @ Varnville CC @ Varnville

District Assembly #2, is in formation

District Assembly #3 TBA

### 2010 Upcoming Events:

September 6: Labor Day (office closed)

September 19: National Family Day

September 21-23: GMP Pastor's Conference

San Diego, California

Sept. 26 & October 3:Reconciliation Special offering

Month of October: Ministerial Appreciation Month

October 1-3: 7th SC Regional Conference, FCC Charleston

October 1-31: Ministerial Appreciation Month

October 3: World Communion Sunday

October 11, Columbus Day

October 11-15: Global Ministries Missionary Conference, Indianapolis

October 15 & 16: Disciple Women Fall Retreat

October 28-31: District Fellowships 5th Sunday

November 6: Regional Leadership/Board Meeting

Luray Christian Church, Luray

November 14 & 21: Thanksgiving Special Day Offering

### The Christian Church in South Carolina

#### Lift up in prayer ...

September 12: Disciples Home Missions & Tennessee

September 19: Reconciliation Ministry and SERF

Reconciliation & Anti-Racism-

Minister Sekinah Hamlin Sullivan and Kentucky

September 26: S C Regional Conference

October 3: Rhet Avenue, North Charleston

October 10: All Clergy Ministry & Southwest

October 17: St. Stephen, St. Stephen & Virginia

October 24: Rock Hill, Sycamore and Northeastern

October 31: New Grove Hall, Summerville

November 7: Church House of Ministries, Summerville

November 14: Zion Pilgrim, Ridgeville

## Blessed to be a Blessing:

### Lifting Up the Next Generation

The 2010 “Light a Candle for Children 40 Day Prayer Vigil” is a time of preparation for the annual Children’s Defense Fund Observation of Children’s Sabbaths. The Prayer Vigil begins September 5. The Observation of Children’s Sabbaths is October 15 – 17.

Sixteen years ago, this prayer vigil was started by a small Disciples church in Louisville, Ky. The church no longer exists but the legacy of this congregation’s love for children lives on. We are happy that many of the denominations affiliated with the National Council of Christian Churches in the United States have now joined the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ denominations in this 40 day prayer vigil. Since 2006, Light a Candle for Children has been part of a whole “Season of Prayer and Advocacy” for America’s Children.

The mission emphasis for this year’s prayer vigil is public school education. How can our children grow into blessings if they are not blessed with the opportunity to learn?

A packet of materials that includes details about planning a vigil, study suggestions related to public school education in the United States, and many other resources can be found on-line at: [www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/FCM-LightACandle2010packet](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/FCM-LightACandle2010packet). You will also find packet information at the end of this letter.

If you or congregations in your area are not able to download the materials, packets can be mailed for a cost of \$5.00 per packet. Please contact Wilma Shuffitt (888) 346-2631; [wshuffitt@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:wshuffitt@dhm.disciples.org) to receive hardcopies of packet materials.

We hope you and churches in your area will be both “blessed and a blessing” by participating in the 2010 Light a Candle for Children 40 Day Prayer Vigil and Children’s Sabbaths. May your participation be a joyful celebration of the many ways you care for children, learn from children, and enter into ministry with children.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have questions or suggestions about the “Light a Candle for Children 40 Day Prayer Vigil.”

In Christ,

Kaye S. Edwards, Director of Family and Children’s Ministries, DHM

[kedwards@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:kedwards@dhm.disciples.org)



The 2010 Reconciliation Offering will be received in congregations on September 26th and October 3rd. Reconciliation Ministry Offering is used to fund our Church’s mission priority to become an pro-reconciling/ anti-racist church through experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue across difference. Funds from this offering provide Youth and Young Adult camps, training programs for leadership development, and resources to promote small group study and community-building



#### PENSION FUND INCREASES SUPPORT FOR DISCIPLES SEMINARIANS

The Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is increasing its support of Disciples seminary students through its Student Gift Membership Program. Beginning with the fall 2010 academic term, the Pension Fund will launch a pilot program of interactive resources and other practical tools for successful ministry, particularly to congregations. Ministry-Life Choices for Seminarians is designed to augment the rigorous theological training provided by seminaries. The program is being developed in collaboration with Lexington Theological Seminary.

Participants in the program will receive a Student Gift Membership in the Pension Plan of the Christian Church, funded by the Pension Fund's endowment earnings. Program eligibility is limited to Master of Divinity candidates who are in their second year level of study, who are under pastoral care and oversight of their region and attending at least on a half-time basis.

For more information about Ministry-Life Choices for Seminarians and the 2010-11 Student Gift Membership, including qualification and enrollment, go to: [www.pensionfund.org](http://www.pensionfund.org) or call toll free 866-495-7322.



*NOTE! NOTE!*

*For the November-December newsletter,*

*The due date for articles is*

*November 9, 2010*

*Please submit any articles, church activities, church  
Anniversaries, etc. to the Regional Church Office at:*

**roccsc@aol.com**

*We rejoice in sharing the news of God at work  
from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth  
and from the ends of the earth to our doorsteps.*

**The South Carolina Christian**



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